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amount of work about this in our office and have prepared several telegrams to be sent to Washington.

We dined tonight at the Van Starkenborghs'. They are living in the house owned by Winthrop's wife and her sisters. It was a large assemblage, dinner being in honor of the Oliver Harveys. Oliver is shortly to be retired. I sat next to Maudie Harvey, which is always a pleasant occurrence. They are very sorry to be leaving.

Oliver spoke to me briefly after dinner about the instructions of this morning to tell Bidault that Steel was authorized to discuss U.K. assurances any time after this week end whenever the French Government could advise the U. K. Government in confidence of the date on which the EDC debate would begin. Things have now shaped up so that the French Government should be in a position to make an almost immediate decision on this point. Whether they will do so or not remains to be seen.

Meanwhile I have had word from Rome that Scelba, who is likely to have his Cabinet confirmed this evening, is prepared to bring EDC as soon as possible before the Italian Parliament for consideration.

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